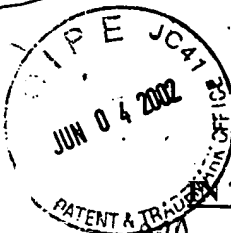


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Attorney's Docket 115699 - 23

#12/c
Jules
6/17/02



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Recommended
Applicant: Forbes Examiner: Jules, F.F.
Serial No: 09/705,056 Art Unit: 3617
Title : DROPPED DECK CENTER BEAM RAIL ROAD CAR
Filed: 2 November 2000 Date: 24 May 2002

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

This letter is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action of February 25, 2002, for which a response is due May 25, 2002. This response reduces the number of pending claims. **THIS RESPONSE IS ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTICE OF APPEAL AND THE FEE THEREFOR.**

IN THE CLAIMS

Amel
Please amend claims 1, 15, 20, 22 and 29.
Please amend the claims as follows:

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- Please Review for entry*
6/27/02
6/28/02
2. (Amended) The center beam rail road car of claim ~~23~~ wherein said body has a bunk defined between said deck structure and said top truss, said bunk having a loading height measured between said medial decking portion and said top truss that is at least 165 inches.
3. (Amended) The center beam rail road car of claim ~~23~~, wherein:
said web assembly includes an array of posts extending upwardly from said main sill and has an upper region adjacent to said top truss and a lower region adjacent to said decking structure;
said upper region of said web assembly has at least one longitudinally extending skirt against which lading can be placed.
4. (Amended) The center beam rail road car of claim ~~23~~, wherein:
said car has a center sill, said deck structure being supported thereby;